

I know that I am not the only one who is heartbroken by her passing.

My thoughts and prayers are with her friends and family during this difficult time.

SUPPORTING THE INITIATIVES OF CHICAGO WILDERNESS

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 860, a resolution supporting the Leave No Child Inside initiative and the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. For our children's physical, emotional and intellectual growth, it is important for them to spend time outdoors and in nature. Unstructured playtime nourishes childhood development by stimulating imagination and creativity and building healthy habits.

America's children are spending less time outside, and more time in front of the television or computer. This loss of exercise and exploration negatively affects their physical health, and it causes problems later in life. Nearly 119 million American adults are currently overweight or obese. Childhood obesity has doubled since 1980, costing Americans more than \$117 billion per year. We simply cannot afford to leave our children inside.

The Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights is a call to fight obesity and to provide and promote quality outdoor activities for our children. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 860.

RECOGNIZING ALAN SPENCER OF MONETT, MISSOURI

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an educator and coach who has helped mold, inspire and motivate young men and women for almost four decades in Southwest Missouri. I am proud to recognize Monett High School coach and educator, Alan Spencer, upon his retirement at the end of the 2010 school year.

For 35 years, Alan has had a number of considerable coaching accomplishments. However, his higher calling is to teach and instill in young men and women the traits of a strong moral character. He has taught that success in any endeavor is marked by hard work, respect, and dedication in working as a team to accomplish a common goal.

In his retirement letter, Alan demonstrated his philosophy of success as a coach and respected mentor. He wrote, "Our coaches and student/athletes have gained more than just skills and knowledge of the activities they compete and coach in. They have learned about loyalty, accountability, responsibility and trust. They understand that a team cannot be successful without pride in your performance, effort to make yourself and the team better, determination to overcome all obstacles, enthusiasm for the game and respect of your opponents and teammates."

Alan has been head football coach, athletic director, women's track coach and teacher for the Monett Cubs sports program for nine years. During that period, the Cubs football teams have gone 58–36 and won or shared championships in the Big 8 Conference in 2004, 2007 and 2008. Under his nine years of leadership, the women's track team captured Big 8 Conference crowns five times.

Alan's career began as a coach at Neosho High School in 1975. His first head coaching job was at Nevada, Missouri in 1980. From there Alan coached at Springfield Parkview High School, Springfield Central High School and at Rogers, Arkansas before going to Monett in 2002.

Alan has been recognized many times for his hard work for students and teams. This year, he will be inducted into Missouri's Football Coaches Hall of Fame. He was named the 2008–2009 Missouri Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's Athletic Director of the Year for the Southwest District. In 2004 and 2008, Alan was named Big 8 Coach of the Year.

Alan plans to spend time in his retirement with his family and friends while enjoying fishing and hunting. I know Coach Spencer will continue to find ways to use his talents as a motivator to inspire other young people to the highest standards of service to their school, their community and their country.

ON INTRODUCING THE WILDLIFE AND ZOOLOGICAL VETERINARY MEDICINE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2010

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Wildlife and Zoological Veterinary Medicine Enhancement Act of 2010. This legislation will develop affordable opportunities for well qualified individuals who are seeking to become wildlife and zoological veterinarians, spur job growth and promote robust public health policy.

Wildlife and zoo veterinarians are the primary source of essential health care for and management of wild animals in their natural habitat and in captivity. Not only do they preserve natural resources and animal lives, but they help protect human health by preventing, detecting, and responding to exotic and dangerous diseases.

With the intensification of globalization and climate change, along with a growing interface between humans, livestock, and wildlife, the threat posed by emerging infectious diseases to humans and wildlife keeps increasing. Controlling pandemic and large-scale outbreaks of disease has become more problematic. However, the United States faces a shortage of positions for wildlife and zoo veterinarians.

On average, veterinarian graduates owe \$130,000 in student loans. Upon graduation, professionals practicing wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine earn relatively low salaries, compared to companion animal medicine. Lower salaries, combined with high educational debt and the small number of positions available discourage students from becoming wildlife and zoo veterinarians. The

number of practical trainings and formal educational programs specializing in wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine are also insufficient to allow graduates to make significant contributions.

My bill will directly address these issues which prevent and dissuade veterinarians from practicing wildlife and zoological medicine. It will participate in the national job creation effort by funding new positions for wildlife and zoo veterinarians and will ensure that veterinary students find jobs upon graduation. The bill will also limit the amount of educational debt for students while providing incentives to study and practice wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine through the establishment of scholarships and loan repayment programs. Lastly, my legislation will advance education by helping schools develop pilot curricula specializing in wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine and by expanding the number of practical training programs available to students.

Madam Speaker, we have reached a point in our history when we cannot ignore the importance of protecting America's wildlife. Wild animals are a very important part of our commonly held natural resources and contribute to maintaining a balanced ecosystem. With an increasing number of endangered species, the introduction of invasive non-native species, and more infectious disease threats, wildlife and zoological veterinarians must be placed at the core of our efforts and be given the resources and recognition necessary to protect both animal and human lives.

I urge my colleagues to extend a helping hand to America's veterinarians by supporting this important piece of legislation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HIS EXCELLENCY ABDULAZIZ KAMILOV, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of my friend, His Excellency Abdulaziz Kamilov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United States.

With distinction, Ambassador Kamilov has represented Uzbekistan in the United States for the past seven years. Before he accepted his assignment to come to the United States in 2003, he was a State Advisor to the President of his home country.

Some three years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Mr. Kamilov became the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, the highest diplomatic position in the newly-formed Republic. He served in this prestigious post for nine years.

Mr. Kamilov holds a Ph.D. in the History of International Relations and Foreign Policy. He was President of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy for almost a decade.

Ambassador Kamilov spent much of his early career in rigorous study of the Middle East. He held numerous positions in the Middle East Department of the Ministry of Foreign